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Mr. Kennedy and the Cuba Briefing

President Kennedy's contention that he was not informed during the 1960 campaign that the Eisenhower administration was sponsoring training of Cubans for a possible later invasion to attempt to overthrow Castro is one of the most astonishing announcements to come from the White House under any President in many years.

The President contends that he was not told of the training of Cubans in the U.S. until after he was elected. He carried out the invasion under his own planning after becoming President — in a manner that failed.

Mr. Kennedy's contention was made public by his Chief Press Secretary, Pierre Salinger, in response to statements in Richard Nixon's currently published book, *Six Crises*.

The Nixon book says that Mr. Kennedy was informed during the 1960 campaign of the training of Cubans in Florida and Louisiana for invasion, having been briefed on it under orders of President Eisenhower, as were Mr. Nixon, Lyndon Johnson and Henry Cabot Lodge.

Throughout the campaign, Mr. Kennedy constantly attacked the Eisenhower administration for "not doing anything" to get rid of Castro. Mr. Nixon says that Mr. Kennedy knew all the time

DAVID LAWRENCE

U.S. Paying for Change Of Administrations

WASHINGTON, April 26—Maybe it's time to urge the petty politicians to lay off each other and recognize the seriousness of the Cuban situation. For it's serious in more respects than one.

It's not important to look back just to assess blame, political or otherwise. It is more important to learn from the past and then go ahead decisively.

To understand what's been going on here, it is necessary to say that President Eisenhower and his advisers felt more than a year ago that it was desirable to encourage the Cuban exiles who wanted to liberate their homeland. Vice President Nixon and others participated in those discussions. Some people in the State Department dragged their feet and kept urging all the reasons why no help should be given. Division of opinion was responsible for many months of delay. Meanwhile, the Communists intensified their help to Castro.

When the presidential campaign got under way, it became necessary for President Eisenhower to take Senator Kennedy into his confidence and tell him what was taking place. There was no dissent by Mr. Kennedy, but an eagerness to find out what was being developed to assist the end of Fidel Castro from the scene.

Discussion of dangers and pitfalls became prolonged at various levels of government here and caused Vice President Nixon, for instance, to become impatient as he urged that the plan be carried out promptly. But it proved to be

the ire of Senate Republican Leader Dirksen and others. Mr. Udall was asked if the American people today support "this kind of American involvement in an attack on Castro." The secretary replied:

"Well, I don't think there is any doubt but that they do. The fascinating thing about this particular business is that here was a plan conceived by one administration—this, from all I can find out, began over a year ago and President Eisenhower directed it. And here the actual plan was carried out under a successor administration. I certainly think the attitude of the former president, of Mr. Nixon, and of these other people is indicative of the fact that we do stand together as a people and that whether what we did was right or wrong, that there is national unity on questions like these."

Perhaps Mr. Udall was trying to bolster national unity, but his off-the-cuff remarks came to be construed as critical of the preceding administration. He expressed regret afterward that this had happened.

Actually, the good purpose is served by examining in retrospect what did happen. For obviously there were some weaknesses revealed. It's no secret that the United States hasn't been equipped to carry out guerrilla warfare. Also, it is well known that Vice President Nixon has been recommending that the Central Intelligence Agency confine itself to information-gathering and that it be relieved of any responsibility for planning and execution.

Above is a facsimile of a part of David Lawrence's column as it appeared in *The Times* April 22, 1962. It is noted that Mr. Kennedy was briefed during the 1960 presidential campaign of the training of Cuban troops in the United States for an attack against Castro.